

6 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mr. Sam Papich of FBI
re Ervin Bill

1. In a phone conversation this afternoon Papich told me Dave Bowers, who handles the Bureau's congressional relations, had talked to Chairman Henderson of the House Committee on Manpower and Civil Service of the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee. According to Bowers, Henderson was most concerned over the reintroduction of the Ervin bill in the Senate and mentioned that he would like to talk to me about it in the near future. Henderson said he was "in a box" since he couldn't oppose Ervin openly. However, he plans to see Ervin privately in the near future and try to persuade Ervin to accept some sort of amendments. Failing this Henderson may take up the matter privately with Senators Russell or Stennis. Papich says the Bureau is much concerned over the problem and some of his colleagues are trying to get Mr. Hoover to call personally on Ervin, but Papich doubts that he will do so. There is also the possibility that Hoover may be willing to write a personal letter to Ervin.

2. Papich asked what we were doing about the problem, and I told him that we had discussed it with NSA who reported that DOD didn't seem inclined to take any initiative. I said we were trying to get in touch with some of the White House legislative liaison people. I said that our maximum objective was to get a complete exemption but if this fails we were considering a fall back position authorizing the President to designate certain Agencies or activities as exempt from application of the bill.

FBI REVIEW COMPLETED

OGC Has Reviewed

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3. Papich said this sounded like an excellent idea and suggested that the Bureau might want to mention it in some of their discussions on the Hill. I said I thought this unwise for the present, explaining that we would rather first take a close reading on the prospects for a complete exemption.

4. In closing Papich and I agreed to keep in close touch on the matter in the future.

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